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The Creaking Gate

Scenario Supplement for The Air Up Thaere

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Living Force Plot Director and Campaign Designer Morrie Mullins presents the latest in our monthly series of supplements to the campaign's newest scenarios. In "The Creaking Gate," a holo-feed serving Cularin is interrupted unexpectedly for a special report from Yara Grugara concerning some very disturbing developments with the Thaereian Military. This supplement ties into the October Living Force scenario, The Air Up Thaere, the second part of the "Looking In" trilogy.

... we interrupt your normally scheduled holo-feed for this special announcement. Please stand by for a critical announcement regarding the safety of Cularin and our many peoples. We appreciate your patience in understanding the need to interrupt your normal activities for this special announcement. Please stand by...

Fade in. The studios of Cularin Central Broadcasting are in an uproar. Paper copy lies strewn across the desk usually occupied by Yara Grugara, and the normally blue screen behind her chair is scrolling text at a remarkable rate. A disheveled Yara is shoved quite forcibly into view, her hair a mess, her make-up only half-applied, leaving her with black rings around her eyes, but no bright colors whatsoever. She glares momentarily at the large, hairy arm that shoved her into the camera's view, then takes a seat and picks up one of several hundred sheets of paper, straightening it as she tries to find her spot on the teleprompter. She forces a smile, but it looks as though she is in pain.

Yara

Friends, this is Yara Grugara, reporting on matters most distressing.

She pauses, squinting at the teleprompter that must be right beneath the camera, and gulps loudly enough that the microphone on her shirt captures and amplifies the sound.

Yara

It appears that, in the time we were cut off from the remainder of the galaxy, the Thaereian Military was putting into place a number of safeguards on their own planets. Given their proximity...

She stops as someone hands her a glass of water from off camera. She takes a sip and picks up a different piece of paper to straighten as she again searches for her place on the teleprompter.

Yara

Given their proximity, it is conceivable that they have amassed substantial power while we were - well, wherever we were. Under the rubric of self-defense from whatever it was that seemed to so completely annihilate us, they have more than quadrupled their military power, and over the past several weeks, have slowly put into place a perimeter around Cularin. They have also moved more ships into the system, including - that can't be right. The Air Up Thaere Adventure Summary The nearby Thaereian system doesn't offer much more than a stopover on most astrogation charts, but it's one of the primary "gateways" to Cularin. Thus, a great deal of the trade moves through here, both to and from Cularin. The heroes find themselves in an orbiting space station above one of the desolate Thaereian worlds, stopping over on the way home from a jaunt across the galaxy. Their ship has been sabotaged, and they must discover who is responsible. An adventure for Living Force heroes of levels 4 to 9. Part two in the "Looking In" trilogy. Play after "Looking In" part one and before part three.

Yara's fingers close around the paper she has been holding for support, her knuckles growing white. The paper rips in two and she looks down at it, then reaches up to adjust her earpiece.

Yara

No, that can't be right.

She releases her grip on the two half-sheets of paper, which are now little more than crumpled messes, and picks up a small stack of papers. She begins to straighten them mechanically as she looks back to the teleprompter.

Yara

They have also moved more ships into the system, including a pair of capital ships that apparently are hidden deep within the clouds of Genarius. This information is preliminary, and as yet unconfirmed, but reliable sources indicate that the capital ships may be part of a larger force that is being moved into the system. Given the recent - for us, at least - revelation of the hidden base of operations established within the system by the Thaereian Military establishment, local government and militia sources are moving to alert status. No official word has been received, as yet, from the Thaereians. It is expected that a denial will be forthcoming quickly, if at all. Commander Osten Dal'Nay, of the Cularin Militia, has issued the following statement on behalf of the militia. The screen flickers, then the youthful face of Osten Dal'Nay appears. He looks as serious as a rancor about to feed.

Osten

People of Cularin, let me assure you that your militia stands ready in case a crisis ensues. While we have not had as much time as the Thaereians to prepare for conflict, we are confident that our officers and soldiers and all those who have sought to serve the system will do so to the best of their

ability. Do not panic. It is possible that this is nothing, but we will treat it as a threat until we have reason to do otherwise. Be ready - but do not be angry. Do not give in to that darkness. We will work together, and, if the Force is with us, we will prevail.

He says nothing for several seconds, and the screen flickers back to Yara. Her hair has been pulled up in a tight, quick bun, and she looks slightly more composed. She has no more make-up on than she did before, but her face appears to be at least somewhat more relaxed.

Living Force Scenario Supplements

Renna's Transport Service (September 2002)

The Cell Revisited (August 2002)

Dark on Dark (July 2002)

A Friendly Face (June 2002)

The Sith Fortress (May 2002)

Desert Cries (April 2002)

The Kaluthin Are Always Greener (March 2002)

An Official Engagement (February 2002)

Oblivion's Kiss (December 2001)

Broken Orbits: Tilnes (November 2001)

Broken Orbits: Uffel (October 2001)

Broken Orbits: Dorumaa (September 2001)

Yara

Friends, this is a trying time. Commander Dal'Nay is right. We can't allow ourselves to panic. I encourage all of you to remain calm, in the face of this cri - - this potential crisis. We - -

She looks to her left, nods, and then turns her attention to the camera once more.

Yara

I've just received word that a statement has been received by CCB from Colonel - I beg your pardon, he's apparently been promoted in the time since we last heard from him - Admiral Jir Tramsig. He sent no video, only a statement that he asked be read. She takes a deep breath and squints at the teleprompter.

Yara

(reading)

"Citizens of Cularin, on behalf of the people of Thaere, I wish to assure you that our military is not now, nor has it ever been, a threat to your well-being. We exist for your protection, and the protection of other systems. Rumors of ships smuggled into your system are preposterous. Rumors of hidden bases are so exaggerated as to be farcical."

Yara snorts, then covers her mouth and nose and looks abashedly at the camera before continuing.

Yara

(still reading)

"We have recently begun a series of maneuvers organized to provide a stronger barrier to the Cularin system, to prevent a repeat of the previous near-disaster. It is quite likely that any source claiming ill will on our part has simply misinterpreted our actions. I wish you all good evening, and may the Force be with you."

Yara frowns at the teleprompter, then looks back to the camera while adjusting her earpiece.

Yara

Friends, I don't know about you, but I smell a womp-rat. I've been told that the Militia has yet to stand down, and that ships throughout the system continue to be on alert. We will keep you apprised of any changes to the situation...

Fade out.